179a

000 How tired he looked! His cheekbones protruding, his face yellow, nothing but rags on his emaciated body. And yet—his head was high and he looked straight ahead! He marched as a soldier past the reviewing stand. I was proud of him: he meant what he used to say in those good old days: "Don't be like reeds swaying in the wind. Be firm, be individual personalities!"

"Detained but a month ago, there he was marching past my window to Siberia. . . . He reeled. . . . His comrades quickly grasped him—and the professor marched again, with heavier steps. . . . The column disappeared in the growing dusk. . . .

"I waited by the window. The cursing and stray shots of soldiers died down. . . . I descended to the street and walked toward the railway depot—maybe I could see him once again—just to impart my farewell through eyes.

"But cruel Mongol faces blocked the approaches. I stopped—looked around. An old woman peered anxiously at the long train seen in the distance. A young woman with unshed tears stood nearby. . .

"Several MVD soldiers came forth and shouted to run for our lives. As they spoke, bullets ricocheted from the walls overhead. . . We ran. . . .

"I found myself climbing the stairs to the shrine of the Blessed Virgin of Aukros Vartai. I knelt and begged Our Lady to help us in our present misfortune. . . .

"Suddenly, as the train whistled, I heard singing from a distance. Our exiles were singing that great hymn of Lithuania: *"Dievas mūsų gelbėtojas ir stiprybė. . . ."* (God, our shelter and strength!)"

Economic Oppression

Latvia and Estonia had been subdued prior to 1948 and little resistance had been offered to the forcible collectivization. Lithuania suffered heavy blows throughout 1948, mostly due to the desperate resistance against collectivization and terror. A proud and stubborn people steeped in traditional sense of human dignity, self-respect, passion for their native soil, for Christianity, and despising the exhibitionist masters of the country—cannot be broken! THE LITHUANIANS WILL EITHER REGAIN THEIR FREEDOM—OR DIE TO THE LAST MAN! Living in individual homesteads or in kolkhozes, they will—unlike the Russians—sporadically rebel whenever the limit of their patience will be reached and their sense of dignity outraged. Russian sadism and cruelty will not affect the people's determination.

[181]

423 652 In 1948, the life of independent farmers was not easy. The land was nationalized. The norm of land parcels left to private "management" by former owners varied in the districts. Arable land was evaluated according to the scale of "third-class land," and a production equivalent of up to 30 hectares was left to private "exploitation." Where the land is of better grade, plots are smaller. Wherever the communists tagged a "people's enemy" classification on the owner, only 5 ha. of land were left.

Norms of compulsory levies "in nature" also vary. The quota is assessed per hectare, and the norm for persons with larger plots is greater per hectare than that levied on managers of smaller plots. A cow-owning urban dweller who does not own a single square foot of soil, must deliver 12 kilograms of butter annually to the state. Payment for "tax in nature" de-

423 456 liveries is niggardly. For instance, 2 pre-reform rubles were paid for a hundredweight of rye, but the state resold the grain to the worker as baked bread at the rate of 3.5 rubles per kilogram. In the black market, the hundredweight of rye sold for 1,200 rubles.

Failure to meet the assessed produce quotas is harshly penalized: cattle are confiscated, families are dispossessed and sentenced to several years of "loss of freedom" at hard labor in concentration camps. And a farmer deals with *two governments*: in daytime with the Russians, at night—with the Lithuanian underground authorities.

A farmer managing 30 ha. farm, must deliver 4,000 kilograms of grains, 4,500 kg. of potatoes, 800 kg. of meat, and specified amounts of hay, wool, eggs, butter and milk to the state. Terms are fixed for such deliveries, usually between fall and Christmas. However, [461] local Executive Committees pay no attention to the fixed terms: they engage in "socialistic competition" to surpass each other in making record deliveries and set the high mark of "voluntary contributions in excess of the quotas." Fixed contingents are not enough: excess quotas are fixed and announced, by armed militiamen, to the exploited farmer as "voluntarily assumed duties of the area inhabitants," plus "voluntary sales to the state" of about 20% in excess of the quota. Detachments of militia ravage the countryside collecting the levies ahead of time. Once the quotas and excess quotas are met,—a distant "sister republic" somewhere in the Altais "challenges" Lithuania to a "socialistic competition." Immediately, tens of thousands of militia and MVD troops descend on the poor farmers to seize "voluntary contributions" in addition to negligently exposed wristwatches, cash, suits, etc. The waylaying of women and girls begins, etc. If "challenges" are repeated, new waves of armed official robbers descend. . . .

This shameless policy of exploitation ruins the farmer. He no longer has bread nor seeds, and is glad to get away from the armed communist terrorists and to settle on a kolkhoz or anywhere out of reach of the collectors of "voluntarily assumed quotas"—but he is fooled, as challenges to "socialistic competition" by distant kolkhozes omit no one. . . . Nothing at all is paid sometimes for the seized stocks, even though the collectors possess signed receipts of payment. And all the time the harrassed farmer must listen to Russian profanity and hear himself called "people's enemy," "kulak," "saboteur," "reactionary," "exploiter," etc.

[511] Workers employed in the kolkhozes and sovkhozes receive but 10% of the minimum standard of living. For this reason, every inhabitant of a state-operated farm and institution MUST steal to protect his family from hunger and nakedness.

The duty of providing "stoykas" is very oppressive. Farmers must provide carriages and horses for postal deliveries, to transport government officials and their Katyushas from place to place, to cut and tote fixed contingents of timber, to transport grain contingents, carry gravel and repair the roads, etc. Of course, a member of the family must accompany the cart. During the German occupation, it was safer for women to accompany the carts. But no woman of any age may risk exposure to Russians. . . . Occasionally the driver and the horse disappear for months—transporting officials to distant places or carting materials for mili-

423 656 tary constructions. A family owning one horse must transport 30 cords of timber to fixed stations. The owner of two horses must double the quota, in winter.

[311] In 1947, about 40% of arable land of Lithuania was unplanted, and the diet of the rural population suffered a catastrophic decline. Few tractors are available. Threshing machines were nationalized. Bribes are required to gain any assistance from the Russian managers of the MTS stations—and people prefer not to deal with the drunken and greedy representatives of the "master race." Forests are systematically destroyed and forest fires are not combatted. The MVD-MGB troops quite frequently set fire to the forests in order to "smoke out" guerrillas.

There was even less incentive to work for Russia in 1948. At least one half of the arable land went untilled. . . .

Industry

433 377 Peat production dropped to one-third of the level of the German occupation period. Very little coal is brought to the country. For these reasons, there is a severe shortage of electric power. City dwellers must provide their own heating—for apartments, institutions and schools.

The official press occasionally reports that certain officials "abuse their office" by driving to some village, demolishing "deserted homes" and forcing the neighboring farmers to transport the lumber to the city as fuel. . . . Due to the prevalent bureaucracy and chaos, government buildings and student dormitories go unheated for weeks. Therefore, dormitory inhabitants or the office force of this or that institution mobilize and follow the example of the dignitaries: they descend on and transport deserted homes (in parts) in a "socialistic competition" to keep themselves warm. . . .

433 [329] Brick production dropped for lack of skilled manpower. The brick works of Rokai and Palemõnas produce for the army exclusively. No bricks and no tiles are available for sale to private citizens. Therefore, bricks and tiles figure in a lively black market exchange for horses.

Not a single cement plant is in operation—except on paper, in the boastful reports of "achievements" of the Russian dignitaries. The cement plants of Akmenė and Skirsnemunė are still in the stage of paper planning, though included in the five-year plan to be consummatted by 1950.

[288] The textile plants of Klaipėda are idle. The Drobė plant of Kaunas is under reconstruction. The Litex and Audiniai plants began operating. The Linas plant produces for export to Russia exclusively.

The hide tanning plants of Šiauliai and the glass factories of Radviliškis and Aleksotas are operating. Dairies were mostly reactivated. The huge Maistas stockyards and canneries were burned down in Kaunas, and feeble efforts at reconstruction are forging ahead. The Maistas plant in Panevėžys is operating but production is small. The plant at Tauragė still lies in ruins.

The beet sugar refineries of Marijampolė and Panevėžys resumed operations. The paper and cardboard plant produces inferior quality products. The railway yards and repair shops of Kaunas are being expanded. The factories, as a rule, produce for war and export to Russia. The present production level amounts to less than 50% of the 1939 level.

659 656 798 the Ministry of Education whether he could attend religious services. The reply was: "As an individual—yes, as a State employee—No."

Churches in the cities are crowded. In rural areas—the churches are nearly vacant. This is because people are afraid to leave their homes because of robberies and thefts by the Russians and Party members. On Sundays, even uniformed soldiers and militiamen (police) are openly engaging in robberies.

659 798 208 A vigorous campaign against priests and the Vatican was instituted since December 1946. The Pope, the Vatican, and Christian morality and ways of life are vilely denounced. In 1947, the Vatican became the "cradle of international reaction": the button pressed in Moscow echoes everywhere under the Russian occupation.

Translators immediately put out literature in the Lithuanian language. *Tiesa*, the official organ of the Communist Party and "government," in its #43 issue denounced the institution of Papacy as a partner of imperialists and exploiters: "The Pope was partner of the gangs of Teutonic crusaders," "During World War II, the Pope supported Hitler, the worst enemy of the Lithuanian people," "the clergy are the worst exploiters and enemies of the people."

Christian morality is also abused but "bolshevik morality" (?) is praised. For instance, *Bolševikiniu Keliu* (On the Bolshevik Path, No. 6/12) of 28 February 1947 wrote:

"The working people of a socialist country are creating their own new morality, basically differing from religious morality. Our morality is based on the struggle for Communism. . . . Morality is the means for destroying the exploiting society and uniting the working people around the proletariat which is forming a new Communist society. Hatred for the oppressors and enslavers . . . these are the wonderful peculiarities of our morality."

Certainly, a remarkable resemblance to Nazi "morality". . . .

The people of Lithuania entertain no illusions: the publicity drive against religion presages a new wave of arrests and deportations and purges. Indeed, since February 1947 mass dismissals from State employment —and every concern is a State concern—began.

798 771 883 The Lithuanian people met the second anti-religious drive with passive resistance, just as during the first occupation. The "purges" are met with heroic stoicism. Churches remain filled with the faithful, regardless of the "friendly reminders" by Communist overlords to avoid the "inconveniences" and "hardships." Religious conferences for school children go on in churches, and the Komsomol is boycotted. Anti-religious "lectures" are attended only under compulsion. Teachers support the Komsomol only under direct pressure. *Tiesa*, the Soviet official mouthpiece, voiced its concern (12 February 1947):

"Komsomol meetings in the II Gymnasium of Siauliai are infrequent. The Komsomol youths' attendance is deficient—a recent meeting was attended by only 5 members out of 13. We asked comrade Baravykaitė,

3: Simutis S-4 (no date) 1942 RB5 Lithuanians RB5

According to the agricultural census of 1930, the number of farms in Lithuania and their areas are as stated in Table 7.

TABLE 7

CENSUS OF FARMS

FARM SIZE (*Acres*)	NUMBER OF FARMS	COMBINED AREA (*Acres*)
2.5– 12.5	53,463	380,722
12.5– 25.0	78,237	1,440,338
25.0– 37.5	59,572	1,788,349
37.5– 50.0	33,236	1,408,275
50.0– 75.0	34,197	2,042,511
75.0–125.0	20,597	1,885,111
125.0–250.0 and over	8,078	1,725,742
TOTAL	287,380	10,671,048

Through the land reform, over 45,000 new farms have been established and over 200,000 persons (including new settlers and their families) have been provided with regular occupation and permanent homes. This undoubtedly has brought beneficial results to the social and economic life of the country.[15] Moreover, the land reform has undoubtedly been a means of substantially raising the country's productivity, to the benefit of both the state and the individual farmer.

When Soviet Russia occupied Lithuania on June 15, 1940, a still more radical "land reform" was proclaimed by the Soviet-appointed puppet government. All land was proclaimed state property. Consequently, the farmer-owners suddenly became only managers of government property and, therefore, could not sell, exchange, or give away their

[15] Kriksciunas, *op. cit.*, p. 34; Elbergas, *op. cit.*, pp. 64–68.

423 land. Seventy-four acres (30 hectares) was the maximum
471 allowed each family to manage.
656 Several thousand formerly landless farmers who obtained a few acres through this Soviet "land reform" and whose popular support the Soviet government was seeking found themselves unable to till the allotted land because they had no tools, seed, or livestock and could not secure any aid from the government. The Soviet policy was to force them all into so-called "collective farms" (kolkhoz).

The majority of the farms of 80 hectares (198 acres) or over were not distributed at all but converted into government farms (sovkhoz) controlled through commissars.

Those who were allowed to keep 30 hectares (74 acres) were called "kulaks," and such high taxes were imposed upon them that they were forced to join the government-fostered collective farms.

241 As indicated by Table 7, before the Soviet Russian oc-
423 cupation there were 287,380 separate farms in Lithuania,
656 ranging in area from 2.5 to 250 acres. These farms, on the basis of productive capacity, were classified into three groups.

The first group was comprised of the self-sufficient farms, ranging in acreage from 2.50 to 30 acres. Farmers in this group raised sufficient grain to maintain their families and kept one or two horses for work, one to four milk cows, and some poultry; thus they themselves produced most of their food. They had little to sell and bought little from the town. At the end of 1939, about 160,000 farms or 56 percent of all farms of Lithuania were in this group.

The second group was comprised of farms of between 30 and 70 acres which produced substantial quantities of agricultural products for the market. Although the farming system of this group was similar to that of the first one to the

3: Simutis S-4 (no date) 1942 RB5 Lithuanians

extent that these farmers produced various kinds of agricultural products, they usually concentrated more specially on one branch of farming, such as dairying or grain raising. About 100,000 farms belonged to this group.

Farms exceeding 70 acres belonged to the third group and stood highest in independent Lithuania from the point of view of the quality and quantity of their products. There were about 27,000 farms in this group. It was mainly this and the second group which supplied the bulk of agricultural products for export. It was also this third group and to a degree the second which first felt the ruin of Sovietization. Most of the farms in the third group were reduced to not more than 74 acres so that the farming inventory and buildings were not suitable to the smaller parcels of land. A substantial part of them was converted into government farms (*sovkhoz*). At the same time pressure was put on the second group by imposing exorbitant taxes in order to make it disintegrate as rapidly as possible.

Taking into consideration the area of land utilized by each group, it might be deduced that in normal times the first group produced 20 percent of the entire amount sold on the market, while the second and third groups produced the remaining 80 percent, or 40 percent each. From this it would appear that the capacity of agricultural production in Lithuania during the Soviet Russian occupation dropped at least 40 percent.

When the Germans occupied Lithuania in June, 1941, they found the Bolshevik-introduced system convenient to some extent for the expropriation of the country economically. They restored the system of private ownership, but had not returned, up to the end of 1941, farms to the original owners. Even those farmers who were left managers of their small

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436 twenty-first as great. In January, 1919, the rate of exchange was 8.27 marks to the dollar, while one year later, in February, 1920, it was 98.994 marks, and in the beginning of 1922, 200 marks. On October 1, 1922, the day redemption of the *Obost* marks commenced, one dollar equaled 1,650 marks; on October 2, 1,815 marks. Russian rubles were redeemed on October 1, 1922, at 0.004 litas.[4]

453 A special law for the establishment of Lietuvos Bankas (the Bank of Lithuania) was passed on August 11, 1922.[5] The financial basis of the bank is 12,000,000 litas capital stock consisting of 120,000 shares of 100 litas par value
• [456] each. Although Lietuvos Bankas, before Soviet occupation, was a private enterprise in its organization, it was under government control and the general director was appointed by the president of the republic upon recommendation of the Council of Ministers. The Law of Establishment of the Lietuvos Bankas grants a special concession to permit the issuance of notes for twenty years, which period may be prolonged by law.

436 With the first issue of litas notes on October 1, 1922, the
652 redemption of the *Obost* marks at the market exchange rate
648 was begun. The Russian rubles at that time were almost worthless, and the value of *Obost* marks was just a fraction of the original value. This caused a great loss to the population of Lithuania, wiping out everybody's savings and creating generally chaotic credit conditions. There is no question but that Germany was responsible for the inflation and loss in the value of *Obost* marks and that Lithuania had the right to demand reparations. Negotiations for that purpose were

[4] Kazys Sruoga, *Die Wirtschaft der Republik Litauen und ihre Notenemission*, Kaunas, 1930, pp. 15–18.

[5] *Lietuvos Bankas, First Decade, 1922–1932*, Kaunas, 1932, pp. 10–14; *V.Z. Nr. 199, par. 1347.*

(b) Introduction of reduced seasonal duties on tropical fruits for the period from January 1 to June 1, on November 30, 1937 (Government Gazette, 592/4130).

Concurrently with the import duties, on many goods that are subject to export control, in case they are exported not in the prescribed packing or do not conform to the contemplated standard of quality, the export duties are raised and their export is not permitted respectively. The sole object of these measures is to support the fulfilment of standardization and to improve the quality of our export goods. Subject to export control are: Butter, eggs, meat, seeds, potatoes, apples, flax, linseed, casings, bristles, and crayfish.

At the end of 1932, Lithuania was also obliged, in the wake of the import restrictions imposed by other countries, to place her imports under State control. This was effected through the Law of December 22, 1932 (Government Gazette, 401/2751) on the introduction of a licence system, first of all only for the import of 11 articles, i. e. sugar, salt, phosphates, iron, steel, tin, coal, cement, cotton threads and yarn, paper, cardboard, and woollen fabrics. This list of goods subject to licence was appreciably extended by later laws, chiefly by the Law of August 4, 1934 (Government Gazette, 453/3161), whereby the number of articles was increased to 46 and among them knitted goods and cotton fabrics were included; by the Law of February 6, 1935 (Government Gazette, 468/3282), and by the Law of February 15, 1936 (Government Gazette, 523/3631), so that to-day of the 216 articles of the Customs Tariff 134, but actually approximately 85% of the effective imports are subject to licence.

The introduction of the licence system in Lithuania had in view not by any means the stifling of import; it resulted rather only from regard to the structure of the trade-balance. Before the last economic crisis, i. e. at the time when world trade was still not subject to any import and currency restrictions, the question of trade-balances with individual countries played no great rôle because it was easily possible by means of an export surplus achieved with certain countries to equalize an import surplus recorded in trade with others. Ever since, however, foreign trade began to develop chiefly along compensation and accounting lines, the transference of balances has encountered difficulties. Thus in 1932, viz., the last year

scale only 19 points is due to the agrarian character of our country and its dependence upon export. 435

In order to ameliorate the disadvantageous operation of the scissors, the Government since 1931 has introduced fixed prices for several of the most important staples, such as grain, butter, eggs, and live pigs, whereby the difference between the world market price and the prices established for the home-market is made good by the State Treasury. The cost of this support for the period until the end of 1937 amounted to 133 800 000 litas and for the last three years alone to over 50 000 000 litas, in which context it should, however, be mentioned that in consequence of the attraction of world market prices for pigs, their subvention was suspended two years ago. 656 435

For a series of important commodities prices are regulated by a Price Controller. The fixing of maximum prices, especially for imported industrial goods, is undertaken on the basis of the world market prices and pursues the object only of putting a stop to a speculative bull movement and of checking dishonest competition.

The above-mentioned politico-economic measures of the Government have indubitably contributed to the relatively easy bridging over of the crisis.

The development of our retail prices for several of the more important characteristic commodities from 1929 to 1937 is shown by the following table collated on the basis of data of the Central Statistical Bureau: 435

A. Prices of Agrarian Products, in Litas.

Year	Rye, 50 klgrs.	Linseed, 1 klg.	Flax, 1 klgr.	Live Fattened Pigs, 50 klgrs.	Bacon, 1 klgr.	Unsalted Butter, 1 klgr.
1929	22.80	0.79	2.10	115.00	3.20	6.85
1930	11.30	0.68	1.50	96.00	3.05	6.00
1931	12.60	0.40	0.95	66.00	2.15	5.05
1932	12.30	0.26	0.84	50.00	1.45	4.10
1933	9.10	0.30	1.00	47.00	1.30	3.30
1934	9.00	0.32	0.95	44.00	1.25	3.10
1935	6.20	0.27	1.28	29.00	0.85	2.75
1936	7.20	0.24	1.12	35.00	1.05	2.80
1937	9.80	0.28	1.27	46.00	1.40	3.05